

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 20 A support for use in detecting the presence of a target nucleic acid
2 comprising an optically smooth, flat light-reflecting surface, said surface having a
3 nucleic acid complementary to said target nucleic acid bound thereto.

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5 21 The support according to claim 20 wherein said nucleic acid bound to
6 said surface is bound by covalent bonding.

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8 22 The support according to claim 20 comprises silicon or glass.

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10 23 The support according to claim 20, wherein said light reflecting
11 surface comprises a layer of aluminum or silicon.

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13 24 The support according to claim 23, wherein said layer of aluminum or
14 silicon is a layer of a compound selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide,
15 silicon monoxide, and aluminum oxide.

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17 25 The support according to claim 24, wherein said support further
18 comprises an anti-reflection layer.

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20 26 The support according to claim 20, wherein said nucleic acid bound to
21 said surface is indirectly bound through an intermediate molecule bound to said
22 surface.

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24 27 The support according to any one of claims 20-26, wherein said
25 support further comprises said target nucleic acid bound to said complementary
26 nucleic acid, wherein reflectance from said light-reflecting surface is altered in
27 comparison to reflectance by said light-reflecting surface in the absence of said bound
28 target nucleic acid.

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